
To: ConnectME Authority
Phil Lindley, Executive Director ConnectME

RE: Pre-Application Letter

Project: White Settlement Rd, Houlton, ME

In response to the Authority's announcement of its fourth grant round, Pioneer Wireless, Inc., dba Pioneer Broadband, ("PBB") is pleased to submit this Pre-Application letter for our "White Settlement Rd" DSL project.

1. We are proposing to install a DSL Access Module (DSLAM) adjacent to the Remote Terminal (RT) near the corner of the White Settlement Rd and Henderson Hill Rd in Houlton, ME. This terminal serves a portion of the Houlton/Ludlow area that includes approximately 100 households. The exact service area will be the geographical area covered by the LEC's wire facilities at the RT. Pioneer is in the process of acquiring the exact route of the physical cable plant from the LEC.
2. Our knowledge of this area is extensive. We have communicated with other service providers (FairPoint, GWI, and Polaris Cable) in the region and there is no evidence that they have plans to expand into this locale.
3. We intend to utilize a fiberoptic backhaul link to serve a remotely located DSLAM adjacent to the RT. Broadband speeds of 2M/512K will be provided, and we will provide digital telephone service for those customers that desire it. It is estimated the installation of the backhaul links and DSLAM's can be completed within 6 months of funding depending on weather conditions when funding is made available. Customer installations can begin immediately once DSLAM's are operational.
4. Current estimated project cost is \$53,000. This amount is subject to change as project details are worked out and will be finalized within the formal application for this project. PBB is requesting funding for \$26,500 representing 50% of the estimated project cost.
5. PBB will fund \$26,500, or 50% of the estimated project cost. Appropriate documentation and evidence of funding availability will be provided in the formal application in a form acceptable to the Authority.
6. There are an estimated 100 households served within an 18,000' radius of the project site. PBB will obtain the exact number of possible customers from the LEC when we submit the full application. There are very few of businesses. We calculate that the DSLAM can serve all 100 residential customers, thus providing 100% coverage within the available wire center.



Pioneer Broadband
37 North St
Houlton, ME 04732
866-355-1254

7. We are working with the area businesses and local groups in gathering support of this project. Evidence of partnerships and statements of support are being acquired and will be included within the formal application.

8. PBB serves 45 towns from 51 locations, broadcasting over 5000 square miles, and servicing over 5000 customers via fiberoptic cable, wireless, cable, DSL, dialup. PBB has a proven track record of successful expansion activities and deep commitment to serving rural Maine. Further evidence can be provided upon request.

We look forward to formal application availability and working with the Authority to bridge the digital divide for the residents and businesses of this area.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Flewelling

